Airport at Sindhdurg

133. SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Maharashtra with the Centre's help has decided to set up an airport at Sindhdurg in order to attract tourists;

(b) if so, whether the area is scenic and there are beaches similar to Goa and the airport will be located 25 Km from Kudal city and will come up on 306 hectares; and

(c) if so, the total cost involved in this project and by when this will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) No formal proposal for setting up an airport at Sindhdurg by the State Government of Maharashtra has been received in the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Leasing of planes by private airlines

134. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that some private airlines are taking planes on lease from their own established companies outside India to get subsidy;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have made any special arrangement for looking after the taking of lease by the private airlines; and

(d) if so, what is the report which has been submitted during the last two years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) have no such information in the matter.

(c) and (d) Detailed guidelines have been issued by DGCA for airworthiness and operational control of foreign aircraft leased by Indian operators.

Communication between IGIA and other airports

135. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that air congestion which still continues at the airports are resulting in wastage of aviation fuel;

(b) whether it is a fact that in the age of Internet, the communication between IGIA and other airports is dependent on landline telephones; and

(c) if so, the details of proposals with Government to modernize the Air Traffic Control of IGIA for communication with the other airports to avoid the frequent delays of flights?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. In addition to landline telephones, IGI Airport is connected with major airports through Digital High Speed Cable Media which has very high level of reliability. All Air Traffic Messages in text form are sent on Aeronautical Fixed Telecommunication Network (AFTN) using these High Speed Data Circuits. For Speech, point to point dedicated Direct Speech Circuits and/or Hotlines using value added facility of Public Switch Telephone Network have been provided between IGI Airport and other major airports.

New policy for international cargo

136. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a panel has been formed to script private cargo companies which are ready to take off;

(b) if so, the details thereof;